

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0369

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: UK COMMENTS ON OPTION III SUPPLEMENT

REF: A) LONDON 10800; B) MBFR VIENNA 354; C) STATE 156821

1. WE HAVE NOTED UK COMMENTS (REF A) ON DRAFT SUPPLEMENT TO NAC GUIDANCE ON OPTION III PROVIDED BY THE US TO THE FRG AND UK (REF C). WE BELIEVE THAT, IN THE INTERESTS OF EXPEDITING ALLIED CONSIDERATION OF OPTION III, UK COMMENTS SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE IN THE CURRENT REVISION OF THE US DRAFT.

2. WITH REGARD TO GENERAL UK COMMENT (PARA 2 OF REF A) THAT DUPLICATION BETWEEN THE NAC GUIDANCE AND THE SUPPLEMENT BE AVOIDED, WE WOULD PREFER TO GO ALONG WITH  
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GERMAN VIEW THAT THE SUPPLEMENT SHOULD BE AS COMPLETE

AS POSSIBLE, EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF SOME OVERLAP WITH THE GUIDANCE FOLLOWING THE PRECEDENT SET IN THE ALLIANCE APPROACH PAPER (CM(73)83). THE GERMANS CLEARLY SET CONSIDERABLE STORE BY HAVING ALL THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE ALLIED POSITION ON OPTION III CONTAINED IN A SINGLE DOCUMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO BUSY MINISTERS. IF THIS PROCEDURE IS LIKELY -- AS FRG OFFICIALS CLEARLY BELIEVE -- TO FACILITATE HIGH-LEVEL GERMAN CLEARANCE FOR OPTION III, THEN WE BELIEVE IT IS PLAINLY IN OUR BEST INTERESTS TO GO ALONG. THE POINT IS ONE OF PRESENTATION, RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE.

3. FOR THIS REASON, WE RECOMMEND RETENTION OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE SUPPLEMENT. WE ALSO RECOMMEND RETENTION OF THE WORD "ILLUSTRATIVELY" IN THIS PARAGRAPH. THE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE WE SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 (B) OF REF B SHOULD, WE BELIEVE, HELP TO MEET BRITISH DESIRE THAT EASTERN PHASE I COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON CEILING BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE.

4. WITH REGARD TO PARA 4 OF THE SUPPLEMENT WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO RETAIN THE REFERENCE TO SOVIET AIR FORCE MANPOWER. THE PRESENT US FORMULATION DOES NOT IMPLY THAT SOVIET (OR US) AIR MANPOWER WOULD ACTUALLY BE REDUCED IN PHASE I, BUT MERELY THAT IT BE INCLUDED IN A LIMIT ON COMBINED SOVIET GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER. THE PRESENT US FORMULATION DOES GO BEYOND PRESENT NAC GUIDANCE IN THAT THE PHASE I FREEZE ON AIR MANPOWER PROPOSED BY THE ALLIES WOULD RESULT IN A COLLECTIVE LIMITATION ON ALLIED AND WARSAW PACT AIR MANPOWER, WITHOUT A SUBCEILING FOR SOVIET (AND US) AGGREGATE AIR AND GROUND MANPOWER. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE MORE CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL ALLIED APPROACH OF REQUIRING A SUB-CEILING ON SOVIET (AND US) FORCES WITHIN AN OVERALL CEILING FOR EACH SIDE, TO SEEK A LIMITATION ON SOVIET MANPOWER AS A WHOLE, AND NOT JUST ON SOVIET GROUND FORCE MANPOWER. WE ALSO PREFER PRESENT WORDING IN US DRAFT TO PROPOSED UK REDRAFT. IT SEEMS TO US THAT UK LANGUAGE LEAVES OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIETS COULD INCREASE THEIR FORCES

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BETWEEN THE TIME OF SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION. US LANGUAGE FORECLOSES THAT POSSIBILITY.

5. WITH REGARD TO PARA 5 OF US DRAFT SUPPLEMENT, WE RECOMMEND IN PARA 2 (D) OF REF B THAT WASHINGTON NOW OPT FOR A SUB-CEILING ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER WITHIN THE COMBINED COMMON CEILING ON GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMENDED THAT THE PRESENT LANGUAGE IN

PARA 5 OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENT BE CHANGED TO READ:

"UNDER THE COMBINED COMMON CEILING ON GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER, THE ALLIES SHOULD SEEK SUB-CEILINGS (A) ON US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND (B) ON THE OVERALL GROUND FORCE MANPOWER ON EACH SIDE. THE ALLIES WOULD NOT AGREE TO SUB-CEILINGS ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER." IN LINE WITH THE COMMENT IN PARA 4 ABOVE, WE NOW RECOMMEND THAT THIS SUGGESTED LANGUAGE BE FURTHER AMENDED BY INCLUSION OF A NEW POINT (B) AFTER POINT (A), READING AS FOLLOWS: "ON US AND SOVIET GROUND AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER COMBINED AND".

6. WE REGRD BRITISH SUGGESTION THAT TANK LIMITATIONS BE PLACED ON MAIN BATTLE TANKS "IN COMBAT UNITS" (PARA 10 OF REF A) AS UNWISE. THIS FORMULATION WOULD GIVE EAST UNDESIRABLE AMOUNT OF FLEXIBILITY, IN THAT SOVIETS WOULD GAIN THE RIGHT TO PUT THEIR 1700 REDUCED TANKS INTO STORAGE IN THE AREA. WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE TO HANDLE THE US RESERVE TANK PROBLEM IN A MORE DIRECT AND STRAIGHTFORWARD WAY BY AGREEING, AT THE APPROPRIATE POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, ON A CEILING ON US TANKS SET AT A NUMERICAL LEVEL THAT MEETS OUR REQUIREMENTS. RESOR

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